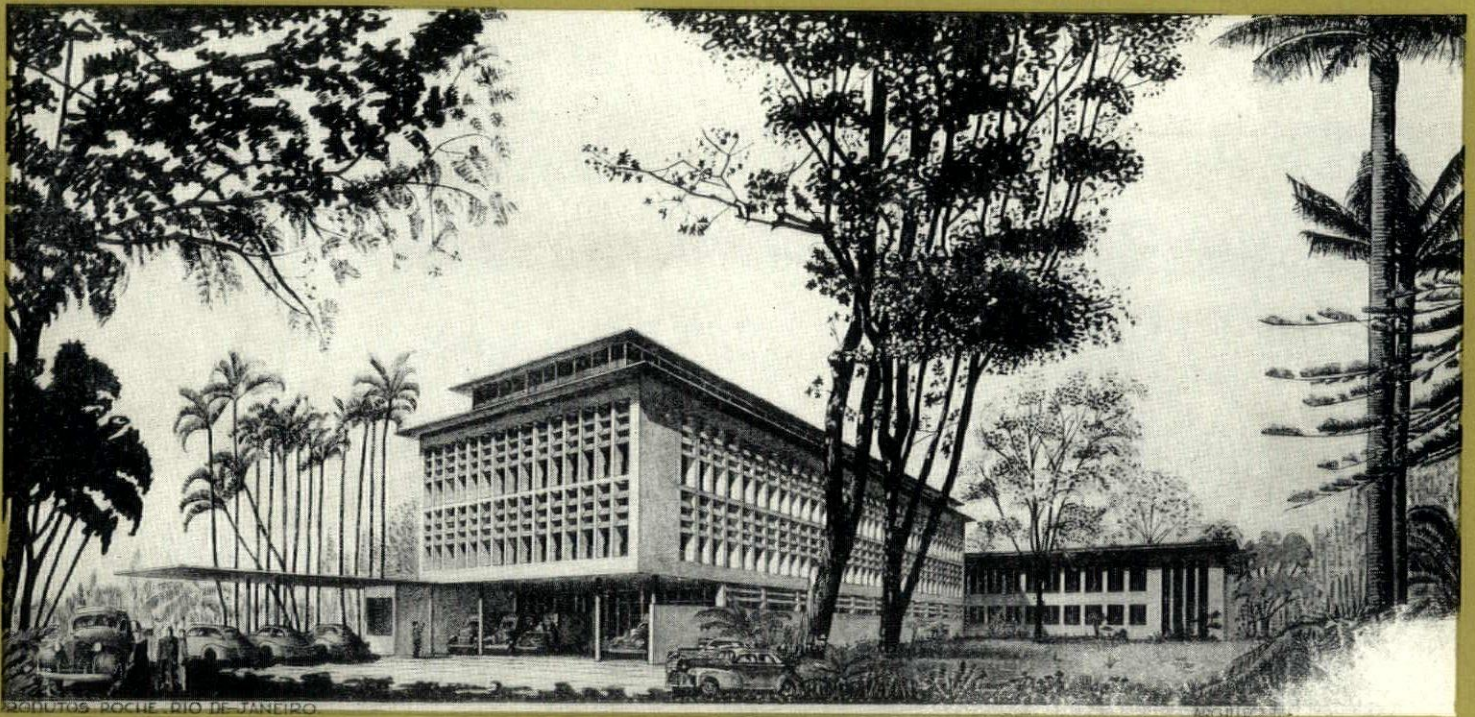


Empire State ARCHITECT



THE HOFFMAN-LAROCHE PLANT IN RIO DE JANEIRO

JANUARY - - - FEBRUARY

1947

VOLUME VII - - - - - NUMBER I

WINECOFF HOTEL FIRE
A NEW YORKER GOES TO RIO
MODERNISM, 1906
AIR DISTRIBUTION
AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS
REPORT ON THE HOUSING PANEL
BUILDING NEWS
THAT NECESSARY EVIL

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

January-February Issue—Vol. VII, No. 1

"Entered as second-class matter March 6, 1943 at the Post Office at Buffalo, New York, under the act of March 3, 1879."

Subscription price: 50c per year. Non-Members \$1.00

Published 6 Times a Year

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CONCLUSIONS FROM WINECOFF HOTEL FIRE

Open Stairs, Lack of Skylights Greatest Encouragement to Fire

By HARRY M. PRINCE, A.I.A.

AT the request of State Senator MacNeil Mitchell, chairman of the New York State Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings, the writer visited the Winecoff Hotel in Atlanta after its recent fire to learn the causes of the fire and to suggest remedial legislation to help prevent a recurrence of the tragedy in this state. The committee has been engaged for almost two years recodifying the Multiple Dwelling Law and is now studying substantive changes to the recodified law to bring it into keeping with modern trends and construction practices.

Under the sponsorship of Mr. Mitchell, a subcommittee, with Assemblyman Justin C. Morgan of Kenmore as chairman, has conducted two public hearings in Buffalo in an effort to have Buffalo adopt a modified version of the Multiple Dwelling Law, now effective only in New York City. The writer's visit to Atlanta was therefore most opportune, for the Tenement House Law passed in 1901 and still in effect in Buffalo, has not only become obsolete, but is absolutely silent on any matter dealing with hotels or other transiently-occupied dwelling structures. As for the rest of the state, many governing laws are bogged down by obsolete building codes or health laws. Many outlying communities have no regulatory measures at all, or if such laws do exist, are without enforcing agencies.

Winecoff Hotel is situated on the southwest corner of Peachtree and Ellis Streets in the business section of Atlanta, and is a 15-story building on a lot approximately 63'0" by 70'7", 4,455 square feet in area. With the exception of a small court, the hotel occupies the full area of the lot. There is an alley of about 11'0" in width running parallel to Peachtree Street, making all rooms "outside" rooms.

The building is approximately 150'0" high above the street level. It has a sub-cellar for mechanical equipment, cellar for storage, first floor with lobby, dining room, etc.; mezzanine with offices and a private dining room; and 2nd to 15th floors for guest rooms. A typical floor contains 15 rooms, averaging 10'0" by 15'5" each. The total number of guest rooms is 200, each with private bath. Some of the corner rooms were used as apartment suites for permanent guests, with cooking permitted in a large closet within the suite.

The building was built in 1912 or 1913. It is of steel construction, concrete and hollow structural tile floor slabs. Partitions are of hollow tile. Finished floors in public halls and rooms are cement. To this extent only, it would be classified under most codes as of fireproof "Class 1 Construction."



Hotel Winecoff

Doors to the public halls and their assemblies, including transoms over the doors, were wood. They were not self-closing. All other trim, such as floor base, picture moulding, chair rail, in halls and rooms, were wood. Carpet was used on the floor of the public halls and in all guest rooms.

The building contained two manually operated traction elevators, each elevator separately enclosed in 6-inch hollow tile blocks. Openings to the public halls were protected with hollow steel frames and trim, and Kalamein covered wood doors. The door panels were wire-glass. There was no skylight over the elevator shafts.

There was but one stair throughout the entire building. This was constructed of steel risers, treads, strings, etc. Hand rails were of wood. The treads were filled over the steel under-tread with a composition fire-resistive material. Over this, linoleum appeared to have been cemented on. The soffit of the stair was plastered.

This stair, 4'0" in width, started at the lobby floor, then changed direction (neither marked nor indicated) on the mezzanine floor. At each floor landing, it rose between the elevator shafts for about nine risers to a platform and then spread in two directions, each 3'0" wide, still following around the two elevator shafts to the floor landing. These stairs were open to the public halls at the top and bottom floor landings on each floor.

The stairs, again changing in direction at the 15th floor, exited to the roof through a fireproof self-enclosing door at the 15th floor level and then through a bulkhead to the roof level. There was a fireproof, self-closing door at both the roof and 15th floor levels.

The stairs were not obstructed anywhere by any gates, rubbish or similar materials that might have delayed or impeded egress.

wood. Walls were papered. Except for the one guest room opening on the lot-line court, which had windows of metal Kalamein glazed with clear wire glass, all guest room windows and their assemblies were wood glazed with clear sheet glass. There were no windows in the public halls or stairs.

Bathrooms were of the usual type. Most were mechanically ventilated without windows. Floors were tile over concrete fill and the walls had tile wainscoting. Every guest room had its own private bath. There were no public toilets or bathrooms on any floor.

The furniture in the guest rooms generally was of wood. Draperies were of inflammable materials.

There was a fire-line standpipe throughout the building. It was located in the public corridors opposite the elevator and was equipped with a nozzle and valve connection at each floor. Linen hose on a rack adjoined the standpipe line. Also in the corridors on each floor, attached to the wall, was a 2½-gallon metal fire-extinguisher.

According to the local authorities, the building was inspected regularly once a month, and complied fully with all laws, rules and regulations of Atlanta at the time it was erected and at the time of the fire.

The fire started about 3:15 A.M., December 7, 1946, supposedly in the public hall on the 3rd floor. The fire department responded almost immediately after a telephone call from the hotel. It is reported that a maid on one of the upper floors smelled smoke and went to the basement to inform the engineer, who in turn advised the room clerk. The clerk went up to the 3rd floor, saw the flames and phoned the fire department. However, it is known that 27 minutes elapsed from the time the fire was discovered until the fire department was notified. The fire spread rapidly upwards (the lobby and mezzanine are almost undamaged), reaching its intensity from the 3rd to about the 10th floors, and gradually dying out on the three upper floors. The 15th floor shows very few effects of the fire.

It is not known exactly what caused the fire, nor has anyone in authority been able to give an explanation for the rapid, upward spread of the fire in so short a period.

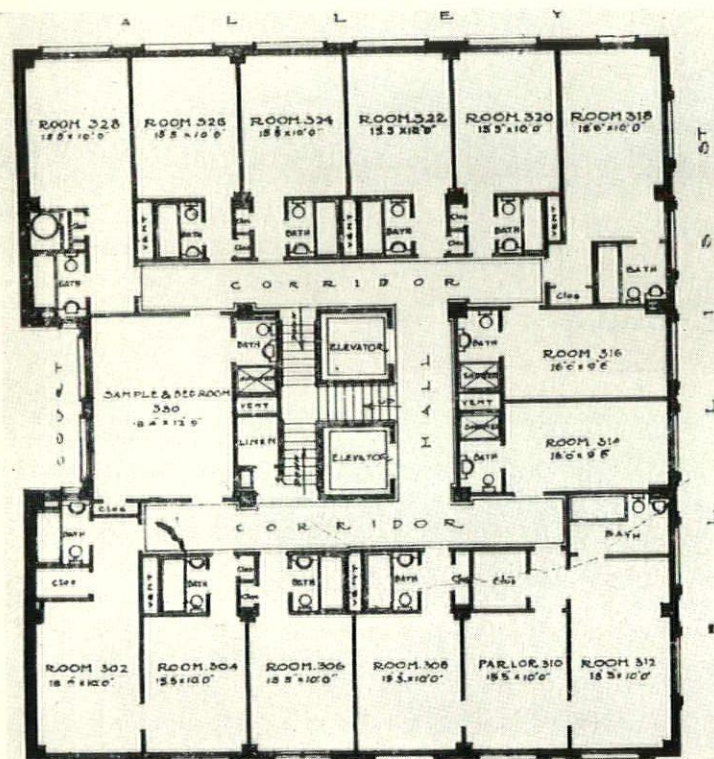
The explanation being given the greatest credence is that it started as a result of a cigarette or match being thrown against a bed mattress that was lying in a corner of the third floor hall. Another explanation is that it may have started through the carelessness of some people who are said to have been holding a party in one of the third floor rooms. There is also a possibility of incendiarism.

One hundred and twenty-one are known to have died. The estimate of the number of injured varied from 53 to 91.

The interior of the building was badly damaged from the 3rd to the 12th floor. Partitions remained standing. There was hardly any failure of the floor or wall construction or of partitions.

The wood window frames were burned out, as were all the interior wood doors and their frames, except on the two lower and three top floors. Generally, all wood work on the typical floors was completely consumed. Furniture, draperies, personal belongings, and other similar materials were destroyed or severely damaged.

(Continued on Page 22)



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN
HOTEL WINECOFF
ATLANTA, GA.

There was no skylight over the stairs. Except for the carpets and the wood doors, transoms, and trim, the public halls, including the walls, floor and ceiling, were of fireproof construction. The plaster had been painted recently and is being analyzed as a possible contributing cause to the rapid spread of the fire.

As in the public halls, the walls, floor and ceiling of all guest rooms were fireproof. Trim and doors were

A NEW YORKER GOES TO RIO

THE building on the cover of this issue is the Hoffman-LaRoche plant in Rio de Janeiro, designed by Dr. Louis Parnes, 2 East 86th St., New York, and exhibited at the Buffalo convention. The building caused so much comment that the Empire State Architect asked Dr. Parnes for further information.



Dr. Louis Parnes

The plant, which manufactures pharmaceuticals and is a subsidiary of the main plant in Nutley, N. J., has two parts. The lower building contains the administrative offices. The higher building, which stands rectangular to the lower, houses laboratories, manufacturing

spaces, receiving and delivery departments.

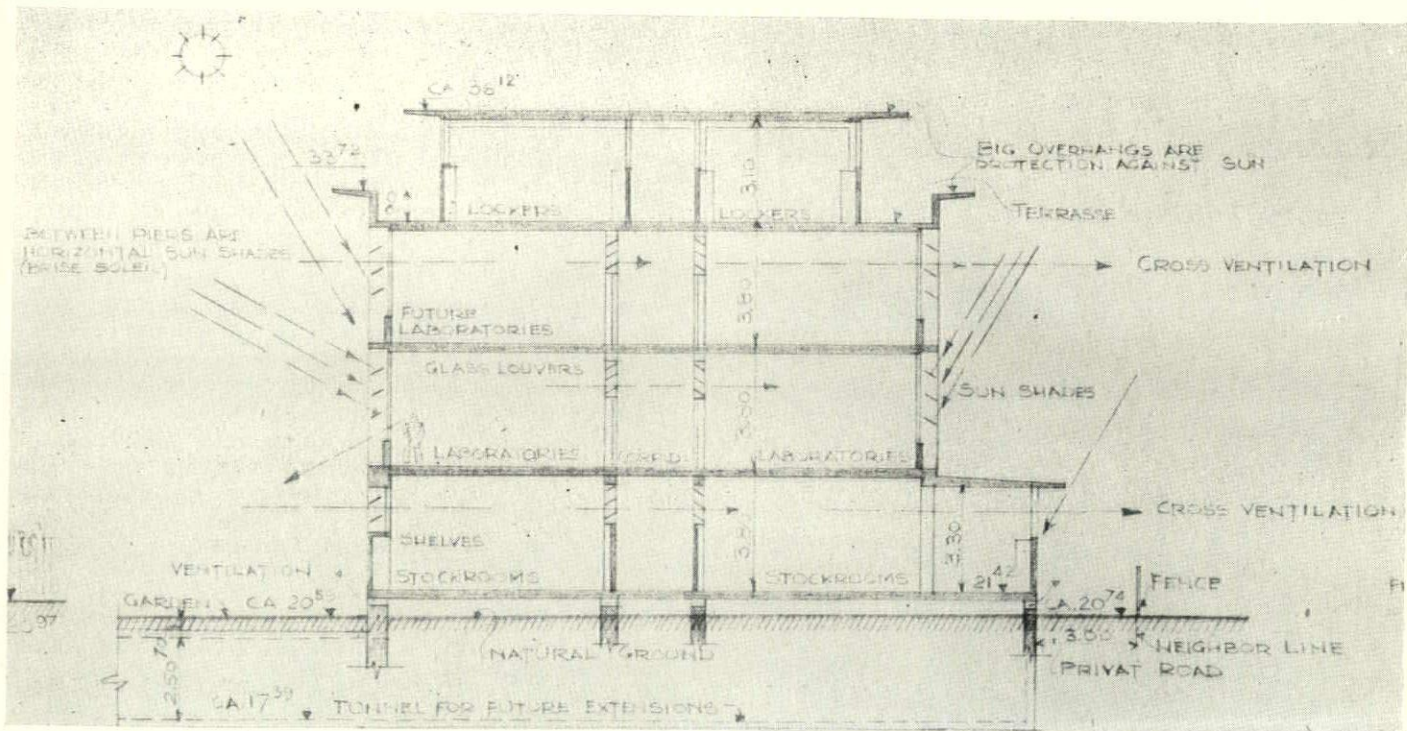
The entire working process is based on the "one-way flowing system." Raw material enters on the first floor flows in a continuous movement to the upper floors to be manufactured, and comes down as finished product to be stocked or forwarded to the delivery department. Entrances to both buildings are separate, access to the offices being on the main street. Freight traffic is completely separated from pedestrian traffic as part of the "one-way flowing system." Employees enter at the corner of a garden and all their facilities (lockers, showers, restaurant, kitchen, roof garden, play rooms, nursery, etc.) are grouped on the roof.

Protecting the buildings and workers from the heat was a problem. Both buildings are surrounded by spacious lawns and tall trees. Both have large roof cornices with a projection of about five feet. The manufacturing building is protected against excessive sun radiation by a special architectural formation of the facade, consisting of a huge reinforced-concrete, screenlike louver of thin and deep vertical pilasters with horizontal movable Eternit plates between. These plates are adjustable according to the location of the sun and will absorb the vertical sun radiation. The pilasters are about 3 feet deep and designed to break the sun rays from the sides.

Both buildings are of reinforced concrete. All structural members and all outside walls of the manufacturing building are treated in face concrete without plaster finish. The administration building will be covered with large marble plates, about one inch thick. Running from the first floor up to the roof is a free-standing main stair also built of face reinforced concrete—a monolith spiral surface independent of and detached from all walls.

DR. Parnes studied architecture in Zuerich, Switzerland, at the Federal Polytechnical University, where he received a master's degree in 1929 and the degree of doctor of technical sciences in 1935. He studied in Berlin, Paris and Rome, taught in Zuerich in 1930 and 1931 and worked briefly in the office of Le Corbusier in Paris.

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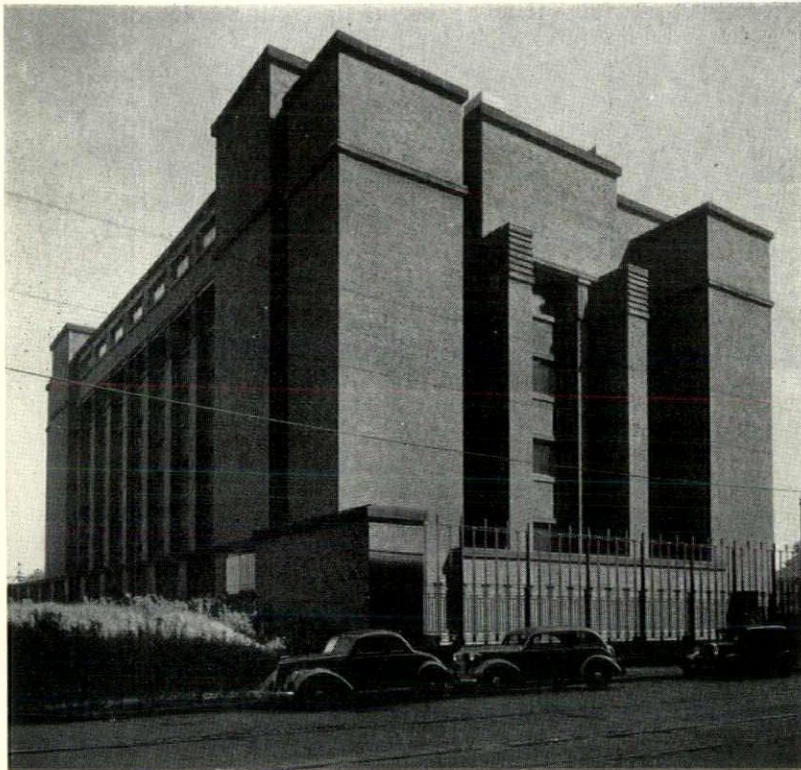


Typical Cross Section Through Laboratory Building

MODERNISM, 1906, Part I

By GUY H. BALDWIN

A LETTER to an advanced architectural magazine suggests that if Frank Lloyd Wright had lived in Michelangelo's time, the course of architectural history might have been different. The writer is one of few who are either unwilling or unable to prophesy 400 years in advance. With a passing nod to the bush-beaten opinions on the subject, let us examine a forty-year-old "modern" building and the job it is doing today.



Larkin Administration Building

Photo By Jay W. Baxtresser

If there had been an advanced architectural press in 1906, unquestionably the two-inch white margins, the four-color printing, the extreme angle photography, the jazz layouts and the ecstatic prose would have been reserved for the Larkin Administration Building, 680 Seneca Street, Buffalo. In many ways this building was unique and in some of them it was thirty years ahead of its time.

There were full glass doors, a type of magnesite flooring on which messenger boys skated between departments, buried conduit, "washed" air conditioning with cooling in summer and thermostatically controlled heating in winter, circulating cooled and filtered drinking water, custom-made steel filing cabinets built into the exterior walls, fireproof metal desks with magnesite tops and attached floor-free seats, wall hung water closets, precast concrete channel roof plank, double glazing of exterior windows, acoustic ceilings over all

office space, a terraced, skylit conservatory and a \$65,000 pipe organ. Only the basement and a few rooms about the entrance required artificial general illumination.

Essentially the building consists of a five-story skylit well, one bay by seven, with office space one bay deep around it, stair towers at each of the four corners, two elevators at the center of the east exterior wall and the entrance at the southeast corner adjacent to Seneca Street and the parking area. Service facilities were in the basement.

So far as possible, the exterior and interior of the building were permanently decorated, with very little plaster and paint. The exterior brickwork, which has weathered forty years in an industrial district with little damage, was of $2\frac{1}{4}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 4''$ brick, with $\frac{3}{4}''$ horizontal joints raked $\frac{3}{4}''$. The light buff interior brick were laid in $\frac{1}{8}''$ joints. The well columns rise to ornamental capitals at the fifth floor ceiling and the spandrels at the fifth floor carry printed homilies.

The full-length glass doors had narrow channel edges, push bars and wide kick plates at the bottom. Some of them were placed in precast concrete door jambs to which were mounted $\frac{1}{2}''$ channel stops. The wall decoration and lighting fixtures extended through some of the glass transoms in a manner suggestive of present-day visual fronts. A seven-foot ceiling was a feature, perhaps one that the compact modern house designers have overlooked.

One small consultation room remains with its custom-made built-in furniture. The back of the chair was formed of a sheet steel pan into which was set the leatherette-covered upholstery tacked to wood backing. With a stove bolt the width of the chair, the back was hinged to a seat of similar construction and the whole supported floor free on a specially designed forged bracket hinged to the steel table frame. A table top of four inches of concrete on an angle iron frame, and the table legs, were securely anchored into the masonry wall and the floor.

Steam for the direct-indirect system was piped, from the power house a quarter mile away, to units in stacks located throughout the building from which heat was supplied through hollow molded brick grilles built into the brick walls. In the summer, brine was circulated in the same pipes. Where most toilets today are ventilated by one or two grilles in the wall or ceiling, two in this building had individual ventilation for each water closet.

(Continued on Page 21)

THE DANGER OF TRAVEL

The late John Russell Pope spent much of his time abroad. A friend met his boat on his return to New York from a three-year absence and was driving him uptown when Pope noticed a recently-completed building. After criticizing the design and explaining how he would have done it, he inquired, "Who was the architect?"

"You were, John," his friend replied.

AIR DISTRIBUTION

CAN MAKE OR BREAK AIR-CONDITIONING

By LEONARD R. PHILLIPS, Consulting Engineer, Anemostat Corp.



Mr. Phillips is a member of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, and the New York Society of Professional Engineers. For many years, in partnership with an associate engineer, he was engaged in the cold storage insulation construction business and his firm became a leader in its field. In an early association with the Dry Ice Corporation of America, he contributed importantly to the original development of applications and equipment for refrigeration with solid carbon dioxide. For several years before the war he did considerable consultant work

in the commercial refrigeration field. Since 1942 Mr. Phillips has been in charge of the Research and Development Department of the Anemostat Corporation of America, guiding the development of new methods of controlling air with air-diffusion devices.

A knowledge of air conditioning will soon be essential to virtually all architects, for an air-conditioning boom is definitely under way.

This boom was in evidence before the war, for in the three years prior to 1942 the number of air-conditioning installations in the United States increased 118 per cent. Though figures for the war years are not available, the trend continued during that period owing to war plant installations. Conservative surveys indicate the air conditioning industry will gross at least \$100,000,000 annually beginning in 1947.

The reason for this sudden expansion will be understood by comparing early air-conditioning installations with those of more recent years. Among the first commercial establishments to adopt air conditioning were theaters. Nearly everyone recalls the advertising accompanying these installations: "20 Degrees Cooler Inside," "Never Over 70 Degrees," "Arctic Breezes," and "Siberian Zephyrs."

This ballyhooing increased box office receipts for a brief period only. Then managers noticed a sharp decline and they noticed that theater-goers avoided certain seating sections. A check showed that these sections were usually over-cooled, stuffy, or drafty.

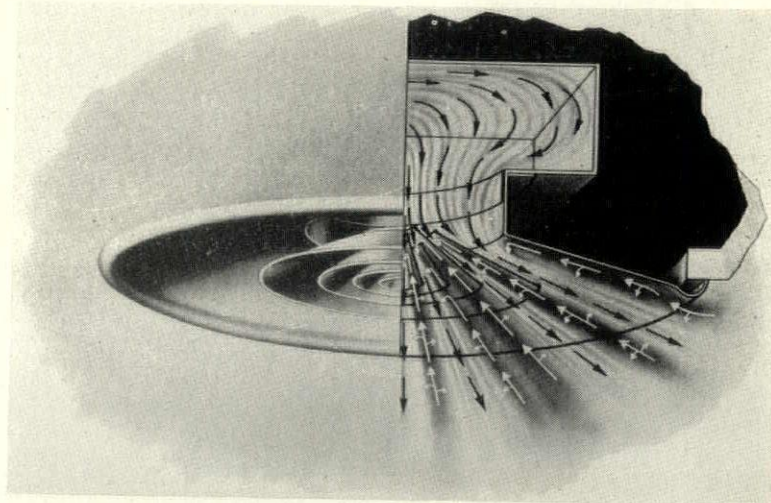
The theater owners tried to rectify conditions by placing plaques in front of air duct openings, by closing old openings, by making new openings, by increasing or decreasing duct velocities, and by other means. However, nothing brought the desired results, for when conditions were improved in one section of the theater, new trouble spots usually developed elsewhere.

In these early air-conditioning installations, cooled air usually entered a room through grilles, registers, or other conventional fixtures. On leaving such air duct openings, cold air generally sweeps to the floor and forces warmer room air to the ceiling.

Until the velocity of the cold incoming air subsides, it cannot mix with the warmer room air. This results in drafts, which are merely temperatures too low for the human skin and air moving too fast. Temperature differentials are great throughout the room, humidity is unequalized, and stagnant air pockets are prevalent.

After extensive study of this problem, air-conditioning specialists determined that such unsatisfactory conditions could be rectified only by mixing room air and incoming air from ducts well above the occupancy level of the room. They also determined that air velocities should be reduced at the same time. Only then could conditioned air be distributed in a uniform, draftless pattern.

These conclusions, followed by research and experimentation, eventually led to the development of the Anemostat air-diffuser.



Metal cones of this Anemostat air-diffuser are designed so that air from ducts (black arrows) siphons a series of counter-currents of room air (white arrows) back into the cones. Simultaneously, air-expansion within the cones greatly reduces the incoming air-velocity. In this way the supply air is pre-mixed with about a third of its volume of room air within the diffuser before the mixture is slowly and thoroughly spread throughout the room in a draftless pattern.

This device is attached to an air-duct opening. Its scientific design instantly causes a velocity reduction of the incoming air passing through it. Simultaneously, air from the room, equal to about 35 per cent of the incoming air, is siphoned into the diffuser, where it is mixed with the incoming air stream.

(Continued on Next Page)

"To him whose elastic and vigorous thought keeps pace with the sun, the day is perpetual morning."
—Henry David Thoreau

This pre-mixed air then leaves the device at a low velocity and, in a turbulent area limited to the immediate vicinity of the diffuser, additional room air is entrained. The mixture then slowly enters the occupancy area below, entraining proportionately less room air until its motion is expended.

Air diffusers were extensively used in war plants. Before their installation, it was found that close-tolerance parts, even though perfectly machined, often were impossible to assemble if turned out under different climatic conditions. Therefore, climatic conditions in one plant often had to be made identical with those in other plants.

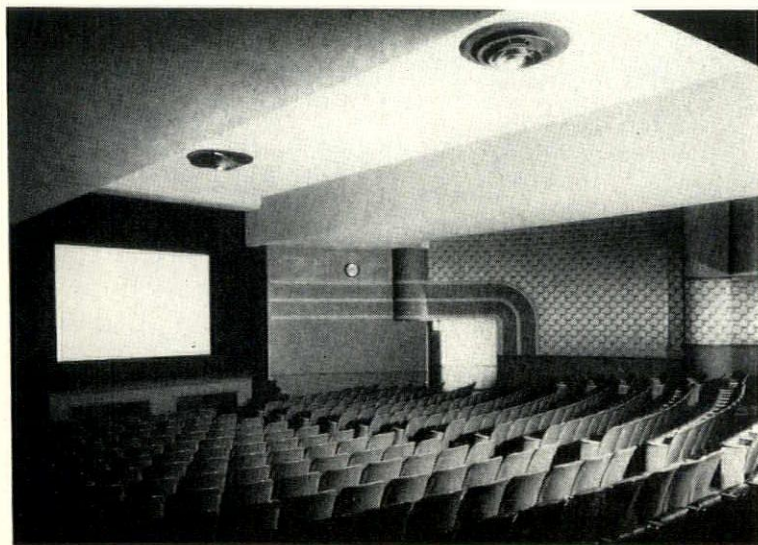
Air conditioning offered the logical solution to this problem. Studies indicated that air conditioning would also pay for itself through higher efficiency of workers, improved quality in products, and a reduction in rejected items.

A modern, efficient theatre air-conditioning system changes interior climatic conditions as exterior conditions change. This affords maximum comfort during performances, and patrons feel no impact from climatic changes on entering or leaving the building.

Therefore, architects working with engineers should design theatre air-conditioning systems so that conditions similar to the following can be maintained:

OUTDOOR AVERAGE MAXIMUM CONDITIONS		INDOOR CONDITIONS TO BE MAINTAINED		r.h.* %
dry bulb °F.	wet bulb °F.	dry bulb °F.	wet bulb °F.	
75.....	61 to 70.....	73.....	63.....	59
80.....	65 to 75.....	74.....	63.....	55
85.....	68 to 77.....	75.....	63.....	52
90.....	70 to 79.....	76.....	64.....	52
95.....	72 to 80.....	78.....	65.....	50
100.....	72 to 80.....	82.....	67.....	45

*Relative humidity



Uniform distribution of conditioned air equalizes both temperature and humidity throughout this Newsreel Theatre, at Rockefeller Center, New York City. Thus the audience is assured maximum comfort. The air enters the theatre through Anemostat air-diffusers, seen on the ceiling.



In this attractive residence on Long Island, air is distributed in a uniform, draftless pattern by Anemostat air-diffusers.

Scientific air diffusion makes it possible to distribute air throughout a large or small room at low velocity, even when unusually high velocities are employed in the air-ducts. For example, in a building of the International Business Machines Corporation, at Endicott, N. Y., 400,000 c.f.m. of air is handled at air-duct velocities as high as 1500 feet per minute. Yet, after air leaves the Anemostats, velocity readings taken at the occupancy levels of rooms do not exceed 40 feet per minute—an air motion of less than one-half mile per hour.

Obviously, small ducts carrying high-velocity air can furnish the same volume of air as larger ducts carrying low-velocity air. Since these efficient air diffusers circulate air of the highest duct velocities in a draftless, low-velocity pattern, they make it possible to install smaller ducts to handle larger volumes of air. Duct layouts also may be simplified because efficient air diffusers distribute air uniformly in spite of columns, furnishings, and other obstacles.

Architects and engineers find that small ducts and the simplification of duct layouts greatly facilitate their work when altering existing construction to accommodate air conditioning, and when planning new construction.

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

By CYRIL T. TUCKER

JULIAN KAHLE, publisher of the *Empire State Architect*, is bearing a heavy load getting the advertising which has to carry the cost of publication. Advertising for a state publication is hard to get because most manufacturers channel their advertising appropriations into national outlets. You can do two things to help Mr. Kahle.

1. Send him names of concerns you think might be willing to advertise in the *Empire State Architect*.

2. Send him a letter saying you were influenced by an ad you saw in the *E.S.A.* This kind of a letter would be the best ammunition he could find. For instance, we know a party who was influenced by the ad for "Flexi-core" concrete joist slabs he saw in the *E.S.A.*

And, of course, you can always tell the next salesman who calls on you: "Tell me your story in the *Empire State Architect*. I'm busy now."

ALBANY CHAPTER

The Buffalo convention was attended by four from this chapter: Sarkis Arkell, Chapter President August Lux, Giles van der Bogert, and Frank Ward. Mr. Arkell says they were impressed with both the size of the convention and the work accomplished, even though it looked as if they wouldn't get home when two architects, on their way home from the luncheon with the Ontario architects, were held up by the immigration authorities at the Rainbow bridge for lack of proper identification papers. It's easier to get into Canada than out.

The highlights of the convention for the Albany delegates were the humor of Roger Allen, toastmaster at the banquet, and the scholarly address of Dean Hudnut. They considered it a great opportunity to meet architects from other chapters and they enjoyed Arthur Holden's handling of the housing panel. Mr. Arkell walked away with one of the door prizes, a gold watch, in the drawings which took place at the Canadian luncheon.

BROOKLYN CHAPTER

The Brooklyn delegates enjoyed the convention and participated in it actively. In fact, a resolution never sounds very resolute unless intoned with the oratorical sonorosity of the Brooklyn president, H. V. Murphy. We asked one Brooklynite for an expression and he replied:

"The convention was a wow! Dem bums dominated the discussions."

They were active in debate regarding the state building code, amendments to the multi-story building law, and the creation of a Board of Review.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER

They really picked a nice spot for the Fall meeting—the Kan-Ya-To Inn at Skaneateles, right on the shore of the lake. What a spot! Many members brought their wives, who enjoyed the events planned for them.

Ervey J. Baker of Hammondsport, N. Y., was elected to corporate membership. Much interesting business

was covered in reports: Mr. Vedder on legislation, Mr. Sargent on safety, Mr. Ellis on the convention, and President Dellenback on a fee schedule for the chapter. The fee schedule of the Buffalo chapter received some favorable comment. A committee was appointed to recommend fees. A committee on public relations has been appointed to prepare lists of architects to submit to persons inquiring about architects for local work.

Dinner was served after the meeting, and following this Kenneth Bartlett of the Radio Work Shop, Syracuse University, gave a good talk on radio and television and the consideration they should receive from architects in future planning. After a short intermission, Jim Beardsley, son of Wallace P. Beardsley of Auburn, presented 100 colored slides of China taken by him during 18 months of service with the military forces there.

All in all, it was a full meeting, lots of business and entertainment.



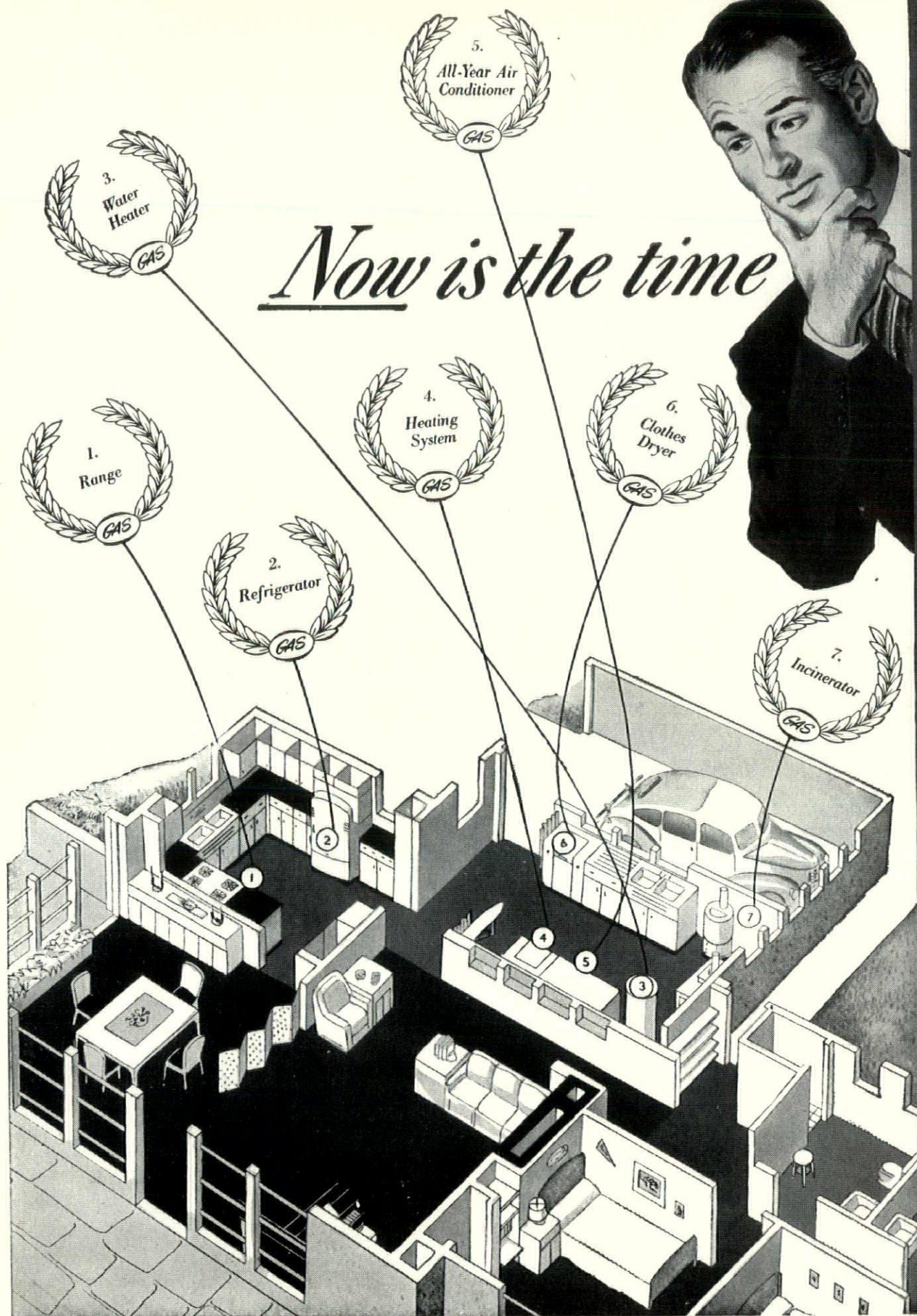
At the Convention, L. to R.—Strauss, Lux, Ginzburg, Uslan, Milnes—Irrera, Vogel, van der Bogert, Battista

The Central N. Y. chapter and Rochester Society lost one of their outstanding members this Fall in the death in New York of Claude Bragdon, an architect known over the country not only for his architectural accomplishments but also for his stage scenery design and writings. The society has a letter from him in 1942 in which he writes:

"I have looked over your tentative program with interest and it looks to me first rate, although I am so out of touch with architecture and its present phases and problems that I do not consider myself much of a judge. It takes me back to the far-off times of the Rochester Architectural Sketch Club, of which I was an enthusiastic and very active member. It used to burn us fellows up that Helen Dutcher, beautiful and gifted wench, used to run away so often with the monthly competitions. Unfortunately, in my present remoteness, physical and metaphysical, I can help you not at all by suggestions and criticisms, but the mere fact that you have gone to all these pains in the matter excites my commendations and admiration. I had Mr. Sanford, editor of the *Democrat and Chronicle*, to lunch today at the Players' Club and possibly Rochester's ear burned just a little bit, for it was largely the subject of our talk."

(Continued on Page 14)

Now is the time



Even in these times—when you could sell a grass hut to an Eskimo or an igloo to a Hottentot—it pays to build houses people really want. Pays . . . not only in immediate sales . . . but in long term prestige.

That is why so many foresighted architects and builders are turning exclusively to the all-Gas home.

to LOOK

For Gas is the fuel people know and prefer. It is the trusted "servant" of 91,000,000 Americans in 10,000 communities, today. And modern Gas service—with postwar Gas appliances—promises even *greater* ease, comfort and efficiency, tomorrow.

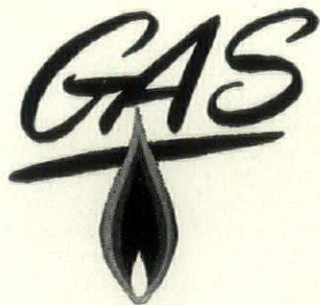
to your Laurels!

Here are a few ways it adds to better living:

House heating with an automatic Gas furnace assures cozy warmth on the rawest winter day. Year-round Gas air-conditioning goes even farther — actually brings healthful comfort in every kind of weather. Hot water in abundance is provided for every need . . . with such economy and speed-of-recovery that it is eminently satisfactory to own both an automatic dishwasher and laundry. Silent Gas refrigeration keeps foods fresh for long periods—eliminates daily shopping trips. The automatically controlled Gas range prepares meals and turns itself off while the home-maker relaxes or attends to other duties. Incineration simplifies disposal of refuse. A Gas clothes-dryer makes laundering easy and rapid.

Yet with all this, Gas is economical! Both the initial cost of equipment and carrying charges are low. Mass production, due to volume demand, has resulted in high quality without high cost. And this superior quality *plus* freedom from mechanical wear means that appliances stay at their peak of efficiency for a much longer time. Add to that the well-known *economy of operation* and it is obvious why Gas is the best buy for any client's money.

Most important of all (from *your* point of view) . . . Gas appliances are designed compactly to save space. Space that often allows you to put in an extra room or cut down the outside dimensions. They reduce building costs further because they require only simple connections. And the attractive streamlined design of each of the seven Gas appliances (illustrated on the opposite page) is so recognizably *postwar* that they help sell a house on *sight!*



THE WONDER FLAME
THAT COOLS
AS WELL AS HEATS

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS *(Continued from Page 11)*

Again in September, on the morning we read of his death with sadness, we received this communication from him written only a few days previously:

"I am ignoring all the elaborate instructions and schedules you sent me in re exhibiting in Buffalo, because, being in my 81st year, I am definitely on the retired list."

The society remembers with pride the interest of this illustrious member and will always feel inspired by his accomplishments.

Another death which saddened Rochester architects was that of Philip Merz, recognized nationally as an architectural draftsman of outstanding ability and known to all Rochester architects. He died this Fall at the age of 76. He was a protege of the late Stanford White and, as a draftsman, worked on the drawings for many of the greatest buildings in the country, including the Municipal Building, the U. S. Post Office, and other buildings in New York; the Springfield Municipal Building, the Widener Library at Harvard, and others. He came to Rochester at the time Gordon and Kaelber were preparing drawings for the Roosevelt Memorial competition and stayed on in that office for seven years, making one of the drawings for the University of Rochester Men's College buildings.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER AND ROCHESTER SOCIETY AT THE CONVENTION

Rochester and Central New York were well-represented at the convention: Elmira by Bob Bickford, Auburn by Wallace Beardsley, Utica by Roy Newkirk, Binghamton by Charles Conrad and George Cummings, Ithaca by Prof. Mackesey, Saranac Lake by Bill Scopes, and Rochester and Syracuse by many. Storrs Barrows of Rochester acted as chairman of the convention in the absence of Matt Del Gaudio. Walker Lee gave a talk on Building Codes at the Friday luncheon, and H. H. Sullivan spoke on "That Extra Draftsman" on Friday afternoon. William G. Kaelber, our regional director, was present; Leo Waasdorp and John Wenrich were there Thursday; Charles Carpenter, Carl Ade, Alan Dailey, Roland Yaeger, Ted Moore, and Earl Boardway also came in Thursday. Don Faragher, Al McComber, Don Hershey with Mrs. Hershey, and John Esterheld were all present from Rochester.

From Syracuse we recognized Mert Granger, George Ketcham, Fred O'Connor, Thorvald Pederson, Ken Sargent, who was chairman of the panel on schools, Jim Vedder, Fred Webster, Gus Young and Barry Gil-mour. Charles Ellis was there, all over the place, as a member of the Convention Committee should be. There may have been others. It was impossible to pick them all up in the crowds, but a record of 29 from the chapter and 17 from the society was hung up.

NEW YORK CHAPTER

Perry Coke Smith, chapter president, has promised to appoint an earnest and active correspondent to supply information about this man-sized chapter for the E.S.A. Meanwhile, we presume permission to quote John T. Briggs with no implied disloyalty to the society, of which he is president. We note that he is also a member of the chapter. In fact, it almost looks as though everybody is a member of everything in the metropolitan district; these interlocking directorates are most confusing. Mr. Briggs said:

"These Buffalo boys spread their stuff and gave us

every facility. Orchids to them. Of course, it rained all the time, indubitably arranged for attendance purposes. The brass hats, between planes, strutted their stuff and to good purpose. The rest of us ate, cheered, and had a good time. The Ontario architects look and act just like us, and do you know? They have the same problems we have."

NEW YORK SOCIETY

Samuel A. Hertz, *E.S.A.* correspondent for the society, who has also volunteered to speak for the Bronx Chapter, of which he is vice president, says that the society had about a dozen members at the convention. They met on the midnight train Wednesday night coming out of New York, and had a plan of campaign all mapped out before retiring. They cemented their solid front with some singing of Auld Lang Syne. They all took an active part in the doings of the convention, supported all the worthwhile resolutions, and really worked for the interests of the members who couldn't come. They expressed interest in the 40 or more exhibits. They particularly liked the machine which draws perspectives from plans (not prospects for plans, they wish to caution you), and tried not to miss any of them, even those where cocktails were served.



New York Society Dinner

The 40th annual dinner meeting of the New York Society took place on Tuesday, December 10, in the McAlpin Hotel. To Chairman Bill Koch of the Entertainment Committee again goes all the credit for a fine dinner. All were pleasantly surprised to find meat on the table.

President Briggs welcomed Commissioner Barney Gillroy, Borough Superintendents Arthur Benline, Ben Salzman, Joe Herman and Ed Kelleher, Henry Murphy of the Brooklyn Chapter, Sam Kessler of the Bronx, and Ray Irrera of Queens, not forgetting our own past presidents, Matt Del Gaudio, Al Eccles, Bill Wilson, Bob Teichman and Sid Strauss. George Cavalieri was commended by the president for the fine work he has done for the profession. Julian Kahle, publisher of the *E.S.A.*, also was welcomed.

Thomas Holden of the Dodge Corporation, spoke on "Forecast—1947." Charles Burke, president of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, spoke on the close relationship of both professions and stressed the point that it would be difficult to draw a line where one profession begins and the other ends. Goodhue Livingston, member of the City Planning Commission, suggested a program of public improve-

(Continued on Page 20)

REPORT ON THE HOUSING PANEL

At Buffalo Convention



S. M. Arkell

The Panel on Housing moved slowly
Through questions as thin
as the air,
Spread out o'er a complex
agenda
Sired by Holden who sat in
the chair.

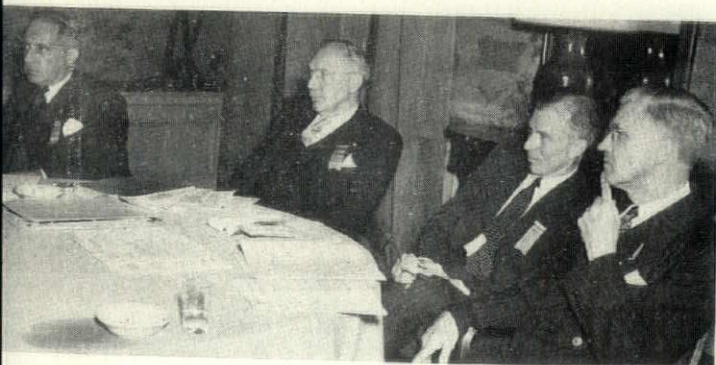
Jack Smith—once known as
P. Coke—
Said the outline appeared
much too long;
The minutes soon turned into
hours
And proved he was not far
from wrong.
Programming—a term used
by Housers—
Calls for data and the mean-
ing of such;



S. M. Arkell

Information that has to be gathered
But its misuse would get us in Dutch.
Whether housing is public or private,
It really is quite hard to find,
And bankers and bureaus and builders
Have axes all ready to grind.
Alphabetical groups are good spenders,
While realtors cry at the crime,
State subsidies slaying incentive,
Since all that *they* ask is, "More time."
City planners now join with our Panel,
So that Churchill and Walker may talk;
But smoke and stale air and the clock hand
Force us all to go out for a walk.

CLIFFORD F. HART
Brooklyn Chapter A.I.A.



The Housing Panel, L. to R.—James Wm. Kideney, C. Storrs Barrows, Arthur C. Holden, and George B. Cummings

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BUILDING NEWS

FROM TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK CHAPTER

HARDWARE

AT LONG last there *is* something new in the hardware industry. It is not a new gadget nor a colored plastic embellishment. It is an industry-wide coordinated effort to standardize hardware with a view to increase production, extend interchangeability of parts, reduce maintenance and simplify selection.

Architects of the New York Chapter, A.I.A., heard a well-rounded discussion on September 24 on the subject of "What's New In Hardware" presented by experts under the sponsorship of the chapter's Technical Committee, Harold R. Sleeper, chairman and Daniel Schwartzman, chairman of Sub-Committee on Programs.

The discussion was opened by John R. Schoemer, editor of "Hardware Consultant and Contractor" and executive secretary-treasurer of the National Contract Hardware Association and the American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants. Mr. Schoemer outlined the objectives of the association and society and in so doing, brought out the fact that Theodore Irving Coe, technical secretary of the Institute, first suggested the training of qualified hardware experts to advise architects. Such a program is now under way. Successful trainees will receive certificates and identifying "AHC" buttons. Look for the button from now on.

Marron Kendrick, sales manager, Schlage Lock Company, spoke on the "Standardization of Installation." He made an effective plea to architects to use standard items. Since many parts are used interchangeably in locks, production is greatly aided, with resultant lowered costs. Mr. Kendrick strongly advocated a 5" backset in lieu of the traditional 2½" backset in order to overcome "barking" of knuckles against jambs and trim. His unit lock features the streamlined case, beveled front, elimination of set screws and interchangeable cylinder locks. He pointed out that one template may serve the needs of an entire structure. A new innovation brought to our attention was their adjustable backset and an alumilite finish on aluminum hardware.

J. Bryer Duff, assistant sales manager of Sargent and Company covered "Keying and Security of Locks." Keying, masterkeying and grand masterkeying systems were explained together with the revelation that there are about 3,000,000 possible keys.

Aldon H. Brownell, general sales manager of Lockwood Hardware Manufacturing Company, author of "Taking the Mystery out of Builder's Hardware" and leading hardware expert, spoke on "Detailing of Hardware." He exhibited the major items of architect-styled hardware used in the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C., designed by Holabird & Root. Mr. Brownell, like Mr. Kendrick, also encouraged standardization. He brought our attention to the series of Lockwood "Details of Hardware" advertisements which appeared in architectural magazines over a 12-month period and invited architects to write for this most informative collection of plates.

THIN SETTING MATERIALS

At an overflow lunch on October 16, architects of the New York Chapter, A.I.A. were given some authoritative data on the latest uses of thin-setting cements and plastics, fortified by descriptions of their chemical composition, and illustrated by samples, which were distributed.

William V. Stafford of Mosaic Tile Co., Zanesville, Ohio, and also of Lockart Cement Co., described "Expanset" cement. This is a product for grouting of column bases, patching, etc. It does not shrink on drying; it is white, clean, not tacky, is used with water, and becomes inert once the water has evaporated. Applied over W. P. Lockart primer, which kills any absorbency in the backing, it can be used on transite, plaster, plasterboard, plywood, cement, fibre board, etc.

For tiling walls, use ⅛" thick "Expanset" over a primer, the tile first being soaked as in conventional methods. When tiling floors, "Expanset" should be applied ¼" thick. A treatment advocated for walls includes a flush type cap and a ¼" or so plaster coat of "Expanset" on wall above, which can be sized and painted. Pointing may be done with any usual material, or with "Expanset." This product is now being sold also for straight plaster work. Its use has not been opposed by the unions, provided the tile setter does the tiled portion, the plasterer the remainder. Nor have the plasterers objected so far that the thin coat of "Expanset" is not a full "three-coat work." The use of thin-setting materials has been found to result in a saving in weight of about 1000 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. of tile.

The potentialities of "Miracle" were described by Lloyd Cutler of Miracle Adhesives Corporation, Newark, N. J., which, by the way, was given credit by Mr. Stafford for being first in the field. "Miracle" contains reclaimed rubber, asbestos and other compounds which protect the rubber from deterioration. It is designed never to become brittle. It is used dry, is dustless, requires no soaking of tile. It is black and sticky but easily removed by dry-cleaning fluids or oils of the "aromatic" series. It is waterproof and is made in paint form for waterproofing and is excellent for use as a vapor-barrier. Mr. Cutler said tests at the Ceramic Research Laboratories at Rutgers indicate that ten years' life is certain. The cost of tile laid with "Miracle" is 30% less than by conventional methods.

"Miracle" may be used for attachment of bathroom fixtures to tile without drilling holes; in fact, several makers of soap dispensers are now using it regularly. Also of interest, Johnson Metal Products has an expandable metal shelf for closets, selling around \$1.00, which is held on brackets affixed with "Miracle." Other uses of "Miracle" would be on door saddles, stair treads, deck plates for ships and plywood wainscoting. With regard to its use on ships, it has been estimated that \$1200 per ship was saved by setting name plates with "Miracle." Glass block, metal moldings, kitchen fixtures, linoleum and cork tile may be set in it. Tile repairs and setting of tile in refrigerators are particularly favorable opera-

(Continued on Page 21)

Letters

December 16th, 1946

Honorable Thomas E. Dewey,
Governor, State of New York,
Executive Mansion,
Albany, New York.
Your Excellency:

The New York State Association of Architects, assembled in convention October 16, 17 and 18 of 1946, at the Hotel Statler, Buffalo, New York, adopted a resolution of appreciation to you and your administration, copy of which I am privileged to enclose.

With my personal appreciation, I beg to remain
Respectfully yours,

M. W. DEL GAUDIO, *President*
New York State Association of Architects

RESOLUTION

"RESOLVED, that the New York State Association of Architects assembled in convention convey to the Governor of the State their appreciation, with copies of such a message to the respective commissioners or heads of agencies."

Adopted Saturday Morning Session October 19, 1946
New York State Association of Architects in convention assembled, Buffalo, N. Y.

STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY

December 26, 1946

Mr. M. W. Del Gaudio, President
New York State Association of Architects
545 Fifth Avenue
New York 17, New York
Dear Mr. Del Gaudio:

Many thanks for your letter of December 16th and for the copy of the gracious resolution adopted at the Convention of the New York State Association of Architects. I appreciate the sentiments ever so much and wish you would convey my thanks to your members.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,
(s) THOMAS E. DEWEY

TED:LR

A NEW YORKER GOES TO RIO

(Continued from Page 7)

From 1931 to 1940, working as an independent architect, Dr. Parnes designed numerous buildings in England, Yugoslavia, Argentina, and Brazil. He won several first prizes in Swiss contests: Surgical Hospital of the State of Zuerich, Community Building Lavaterstrasse, Asylum for Old People at Lengnau, and the Globus department store in Zuerich.

Since 1940, he has had his own architectural office in New York. During the war he designed industrial plants for the Anaconda Copper Mining Co., and after the war he designed factories, offices and a recreation center for Hoffman-LaRoche. He was associated with Chapman and Evans in a Rye, N. Y., housing project and has done considerable writing, a book on department stores having been translated into several languages. He is a member of the American and Swiss Institutes of Architects and of the International Society of Architects.

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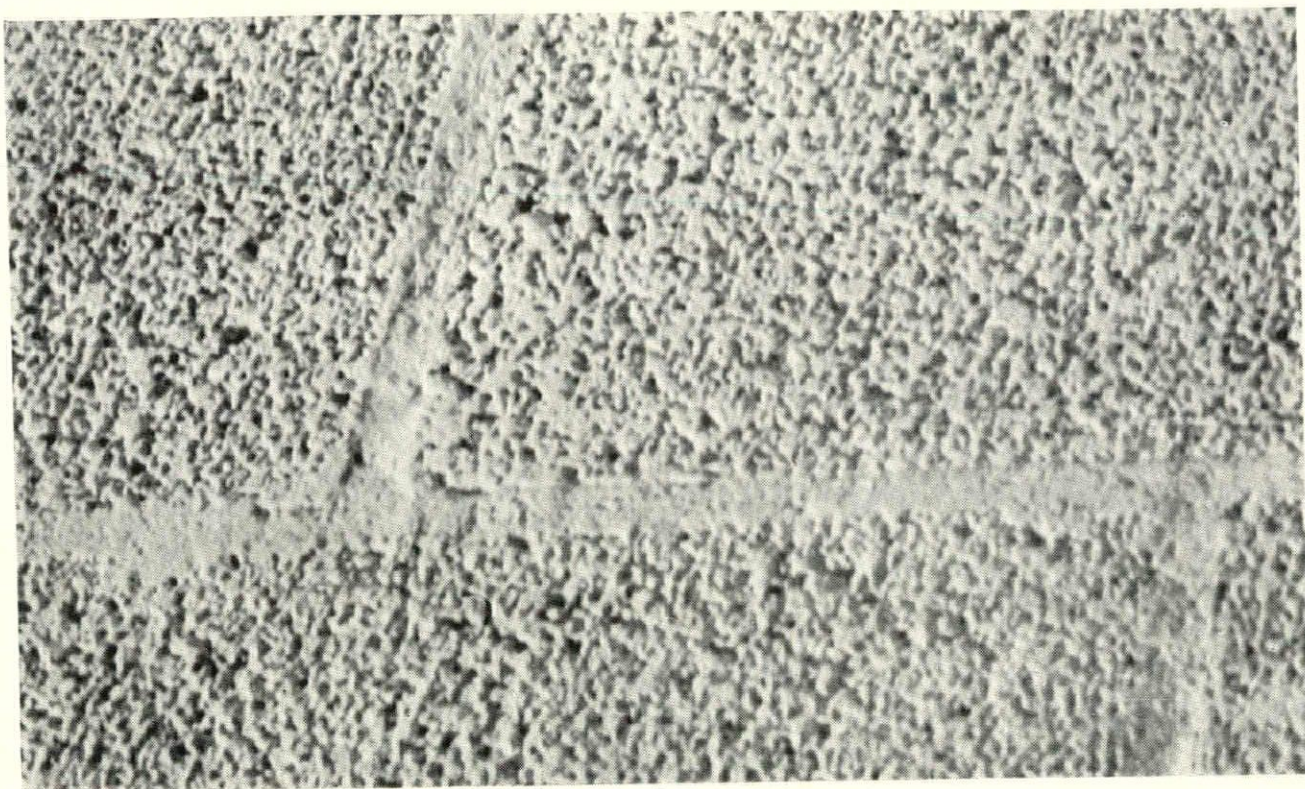
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Hundreds of installations have proven the ef-

fectiveness of this Structural, Acoustical and Insulating material that costs less than even one-purpose structural materials. Tests at the University of Illinois established an average coefficient of .50, comparable with materials that are used exclusively for sound absorption.

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THAT NECESSARY EVIL—THE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEER

By THOMAS H. McKAIG

It is surprising how much difference of opinion there can be among architects and engineers on such a simple question as how to build a satisfactory concrete foundation wall. For the purpose of this letter, assume normal conditions such as are encountered in a simple structure as the basement of a store or the foundation wall of a school building. The answers range all the way from a plain concrete wall of 1500 pound concrete, with no reinforcement, to the requirements of the New York State Architect's office—two networks of reinforcing steel thruout the wall, one layer in each face.

For my part, I like a 3000 pound concrete, not because it is needed for strength but for durability. A 1500 pound concrete is usually more porous, more susceptible to frost action than a better concrete. And for reinforcement, unless it is a high wall or a wall designed to carry a heavy lateral thrust, I have found that the placing of two continuous $\frac{3}{4}$ " round bars in the bottom and top of the wall about two inches from the horizontal corners, and lapping these bars around the vertical corners provide a fairly positive reinforcement against shrinkage and settlement. Shrinkage cracks invariably start at the top of the wall and settlement cracks either at the top or bottom. If they can be arrested at the point where they begin, I do not feel that it is necessary to put a network of steel in both faces of the wall where it serves no useful purpose.

And what about the foundations for these walls? So far as load-carrying is concerned, actual spread footings

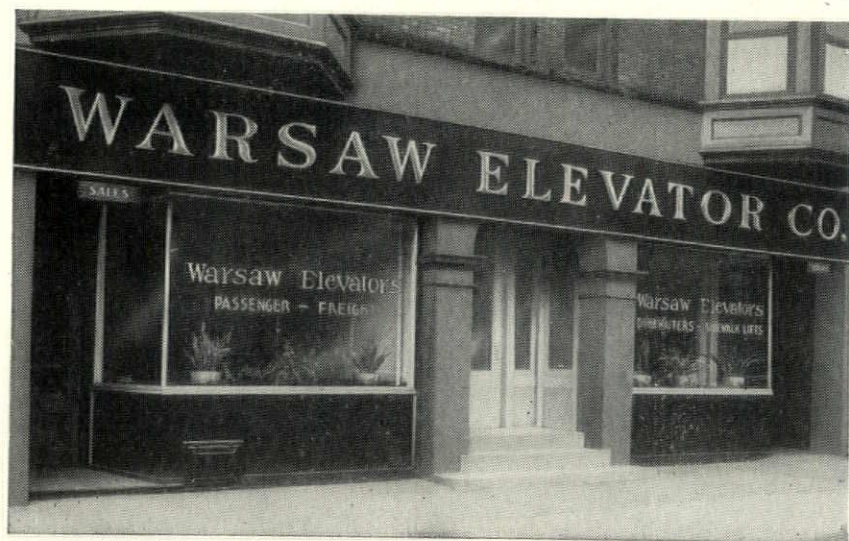
are not really required. In the case of a skeleton job with spread footings under the wall columns, the walls will act as a beam between these broader footings anyway. Moreover, in the case of a light load such as you would get from a one-or two-story commercial structure or school house, the width of the wall itself might easily be enough to spread the load sufficiently.

I prefer a wall footing not because it is needed to carry the load but because it actually simplifies the field construction and in most cases costs no more than a straight wall without the footing course. For example, assume the wall of a one-story building with the bottom of the footing determined by the frost line—say a sixteen-inch foundation wall. My suggestion would be to dig a trench two feet four inches wide, dump concrete into this and when this footing has hardened, build the remaining forms on top of this firm base. Many times I have seen a wall form built up on mud sills ready to concrete the next day but washed out of line overnight by a heavy rainstorm. The construction of these forms on a firm base of concrete would have saved them from destruction. And compare the cost of one cubic foot of extra concrete required for the footing with the cost of two square feet of forms.—about 55 cents' worth of concrete against about 60 cents' worth of forms. So it is not costing you anything.

A most elementary subject to discuss after all, but like so many such elementary subjects, plenty of room for disagreement.

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AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS *(Continued from Page 14)*

ments to be stretched out over a long period of years to eliminate depressions. Fred Allen of the Producers' Council predicted a \$17 billion construction program.

Max Foley, chairman of the Building Congress, a man of few words and direct to the point, said that with all the planning that must be done, there are only two groups to do it, the architects and the engineers, and if we don't get paid adequate fees, it's our own fault.

The last speaker was our own Matt Del Gaudio. Matt looked fine after his recent illness and we were all happy to see him back. Matt installed the newly-elected officers for 1947. They were: president, John T. Briggs; vice president, Adolph Goldberg; secretary, John J. Carroll; treasurer, Maxwell A. Cantor; directors for three years, Henry George Greene, Samuel A. Hertz, Edward J. Hurley and Guerino Salerni; director for one year, Simon Heller, and director ex-officio, Sidney L. Strauss.

QUEENS CHAPTER

The Queens chapter had a meeting in their regular meeting rooms in Flushing, September 12. In addition to such routine business as the treasurer's report, membership applications, and payments of dues, other reports showed the chapter really has its teeth in civic matters. It is studying the question of proper zoning protection for residential neighborhoods and a recent bill prohibiting garages in dwellings where the floor of such garages would be more than 12" below the grade. It is taking steps to project a movement for the creation of a civic center in the Borough of Queens and has maps and data to inaugurate a preliminary study. It is working with the Joint Legislative Committee on a uniform building code for New York State and in other ways shows an active interest in making the borough feel the impact of its architectural weight.

There were quite a few members of this chapter at the convention. Sid Strauss was everywhere. Si Heller says that he was much impressed by the address made by President Edmunds, which was enthusiastically received by the entire group. They respected his outspoken statements, and think that if the powers that be would heed his recommendations many difficulties of the building profession would be over.

STATEN ISLAND CHAPTER

We met the president, Kenneth W. Milnes, and the first vice-president, Maurice G. Uslan, of this new chapter for the first time at the Convention. Mr. Uslan has promised to keep us informed of matters in the chapter for publication in this section of the *Empire State Architect*. We hope that the rest of you members will keep him reminded of this by supplying him with material of interest. Mr. Milnes wishes to join others in expressing appreciation for the tremendous amount of work that must have been done by our hosts, the Buffalo Chapter, in putting on such an instructive and entertaining convention.

The chapter is actively engaged in formulating local civic policy in changing stringent zoning laws which are retarding expansion of business property by limiting construction to only 60 per cent of plot coverage. Groups co-operating will be the Chamber of Commerce, local trade boards, Real Estate Board, Contractors' Association, building and loan associations, and banks.

President Kenneth Milnes is chairman of the housing committee of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

The October 24th meeting was highlighted by a din-

ner at the Meurot Club with 90 per cent of the membership present. Reports on the convention were made by delegates Milnes and Uslan. Ways and means of ending the present stalemate in the construction industry were discussed. The consensus clearly indicated that production of materials is being throttled at the source by restraint of free competition and that prices will not reach a lower level for the home purchaser, veteran or civilian, until these controls are removed. (Editor's note: Since this report was received, most building restrictions have been removed.)

WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

This chapter has a very interesting monthly bulletin which it calls "The Blue Print." It's printed on blue paper and gives notices of meetings and the members' doings. It has apparently been printed for some time as they are on Volume XVIII. We note that they have taken in six new members, the sign of an active chapter. They mourn the death of Edward F. Hayner, one of the charter members of the Westchester chapter and one of the most active members.

They have a small-house-plans bureau in operation, and the chairman of the committee in charge of the bureau has reported sales of plans totaling several thousands in the first two months of operation.

At the convention, George A. Boehm, the old past-master of architectural conventions, lent his parliamentary weight to most of the discussions. Ralph T. Walker, a member of this chapter, as well as the two New York units, gave a most interesting talk on city planning from the automotive standpoint.

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BUILDING NEWS

(Continued from Page 16)

tions. Structural glass can be set against a smooth backing and is removable for alterations.

Paul Herbert of U.S. Quarry Tile Co. and Sparta Ceramics Co., E. Sparta, Ohio, described the Sparta contribution as ceramic floor tile arranged in patterns and fastened together on the back with a flexible polyvinyl chloride membrane, rather than on the front or top with paper, as conventionally done. This is then laid like linoleum by gluing it down to the underfloor or underlayment with a thin trowel coat of vinyl plastic in paste form, called "Sparamics," a product similar to a white "Miracle." His company is working on a flexible factory-applied grout, but at present the joints are grouted in the usual way, "Expanset" being good for this.

MODERNISM, 1906

(Continued from Page 8)

Many of the lighting fixtures were spherical and, so far as I could see, all were incandescent. One party was quite certain that a type of cold cathode lighting made by Westinghouse was used in part of the building. In one stair well there was a three-story lighting fixture, a two-inch hollow metal rod with a cluster of lights at each landing.

The stair wells were bounded by brick walls with horizontal copings, and instead of a guard following the rake of the stairs, a guard about two feet square was set into the angle formed by the coping of the lower flight and the wall of the upper flight. The reinforced concrete stringer on the well side was supported by a horizontal inverted T-beam with a four inch brick spandrel.

On stair landings at the floor levels were installed custom-made gang lavatories built into the masonry with custom-made sheet metal waste receptacles on castors under the entire width of the lavatory. The placing of this little feature and the slop sink in a 50-inch stair hall, separated by plate glass from the office space, might be termed "Open planning" by the progressive press, or perhaps it was one way of reducing loitering in the wash rooms.

And the glass enclosed elevator shaft! Is the all-glass office building going to bring this back? And the greenhouse built elevator penthouse! These features, may we suggest, were a twenty-year hop ahead of the building codes.

The Larkin Administration Building was sold three years ago and has since been vacant. Title has reverted to the city for nonpayment of taxes. It has been considered as a possibility for one of the five technical institutes authorized by New York State. Various companies attracted by the unusual character of the building have investigated the feasibility of remodeling it to their use, but the low condition into which it has been allowed to fall, the large costs of remodeling any of the masonry masses in the exterior walls, of repairing or replacing all of the specially built equipment, of filling in the well or accepting it as a circulation obstruction, and the off-the-premises power plant have so far deterred them.

The story of this building has been told in book and magazine, at home and abroad, for it is an actual building and not a designer's dream on paper. Various unused office buildings built at about the same time in the same city are performing valuable service today in no more favored locations, yet with office space at a premium, it has been abandoned to the neighborhood juveniles and the pigeons.

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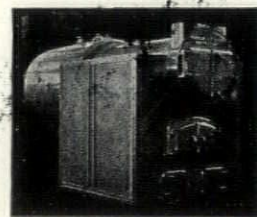
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COMMITTEE ON CODE OF ETHICS

In accordance with a resolution passed at the recent convention, the following men have been appointed as a committee on the Code of Ethics:—

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George B. Cummings
99 Collier St., Binghamton
Clement R. Newkirk
258 Genesee St., Utica
Albert G. Clay
101 Park Ave., N.Y.C.

NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED

Two new members have been appointed by the School

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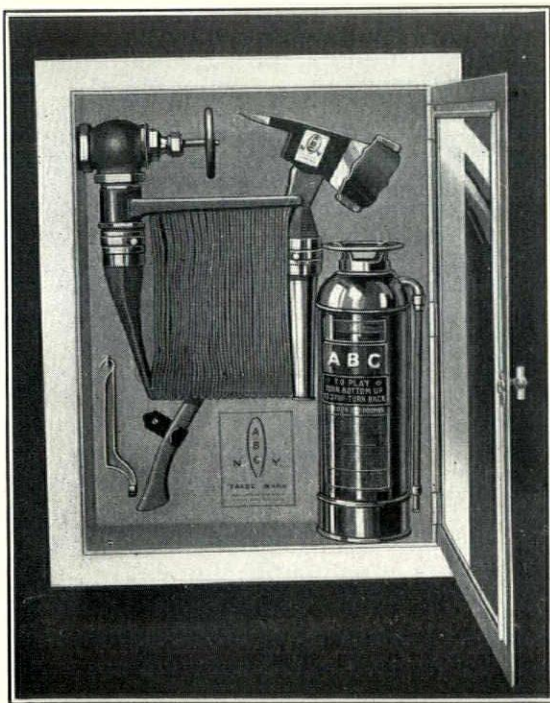
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of Architecture, Syracuse University, to the Cooperating Committee of Architects, it was announced by Dean L. C. Dillenback. They are William Lescaze, A.I.A., New York, and James A. Britton, A.I.A., Greenfield, Mass. Other members of the committee organized in 1936 are Ernest Barott, Montreal; Louis J. Gill, San Diego; William G. Kaelber, Rochester; L. Andrew Reinhard, New York; Lorimer Rich, New York, and Conway L. Todd, Rochester.

WINECOFF HOTEL FIRE

(Continued from Page 6)

All of the above factors appear to lead to the following findings:

1. The intense coverage and usage of the land caused a density of occupancy that in itself made this building a fire-hazard in relation to the means of egress.

2. The compactness of the spaces allocated to the public corridor, which also served as egress to and from fifteen guest rooms on each floor, without any openings to the outer air, was certain to cause an intense hot fire and force the gases to seek a way out. As in all fires in enclosed spaces, fire rises upwards and mushrooms. Had there been any skylights over the stair or elevators, it is very possible that the gases would have found an outlet to the roof and thus some lives undoubtedly would have been saved.

3. The inadequacy of egress. One stair, only 3'0" wide in parts, was inadequate. Trapped by the fire on their way towards the one stair, many returned to their rooms and jumped from windows to their death, or perished in their rooms, as there was no fire-escape or other second means of egress from any floor or room.

4. The stair being open at the floor landings was probably the greatest single contributing factor in the rapid spread of the fire. As in the La Salle Hotel fire in Chicago, open shafts of any kind (stairways, elevators, dumbwaiters, etc.) are now and will continue to be the greatest of fire hazards, as they offer no protection against the upward or outward surge of flames, smoke, and, even more important, the deadly noxious fumes generated by fire. These open shafts and the lack of skylights directly over the stair and elevator shafts were the outstanding weaknesses.

5. No fire-preventive or fire-resistive methods known can overcome panic. Panic is, and will continue to be, the greatest contributory cause of death in any fire. It was true of this fire. And even though this hotel complied with all existing laws and was recently inspected and found in good condition, it could not possibly be construed as meeting the fire-protective measures of a modern code.

6. In hotels erected since enactment of the Multiple Dwelling Law there is extremely little likelihood of fire, causing death, which could be traceable to the inherent construction of the building or to inadequate means of egress. On the other hand, where in the State the Tenement House Law is effective, it should be remembered that the Tenement House Law is *not* applicable to hotels, and Building Code requirements are frequently inadequate. The time seems most opportune to have a Multiple Dwelling Law, such as was recently suggested by the Joint Legislative Committee on Housing and Multiple Dwellings at a public meeting in Buffalo, become the mandatory law of the State; in lieu of that, at least a State Law applicable to all hotels and similarly occupied buildings. That indeed appears to be the paramount lesson of these recent hotel tragedies.

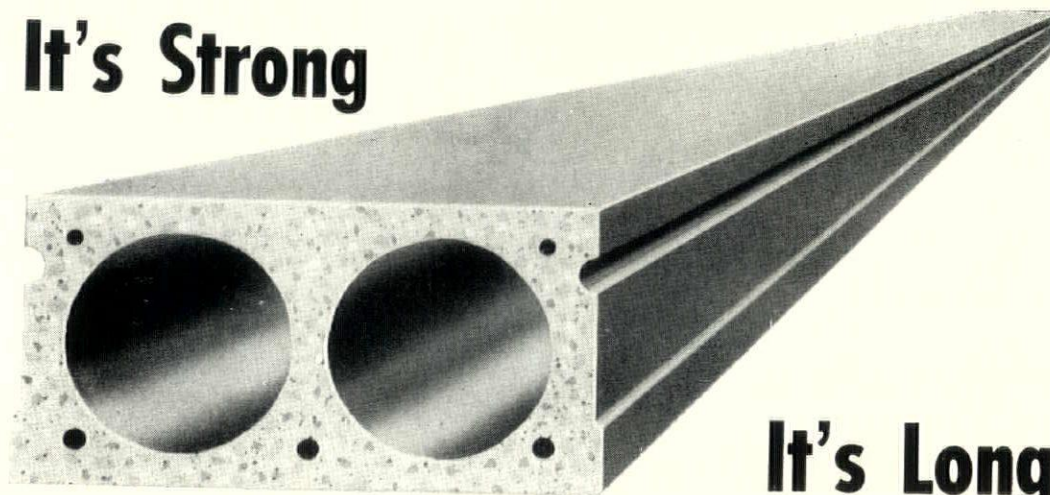
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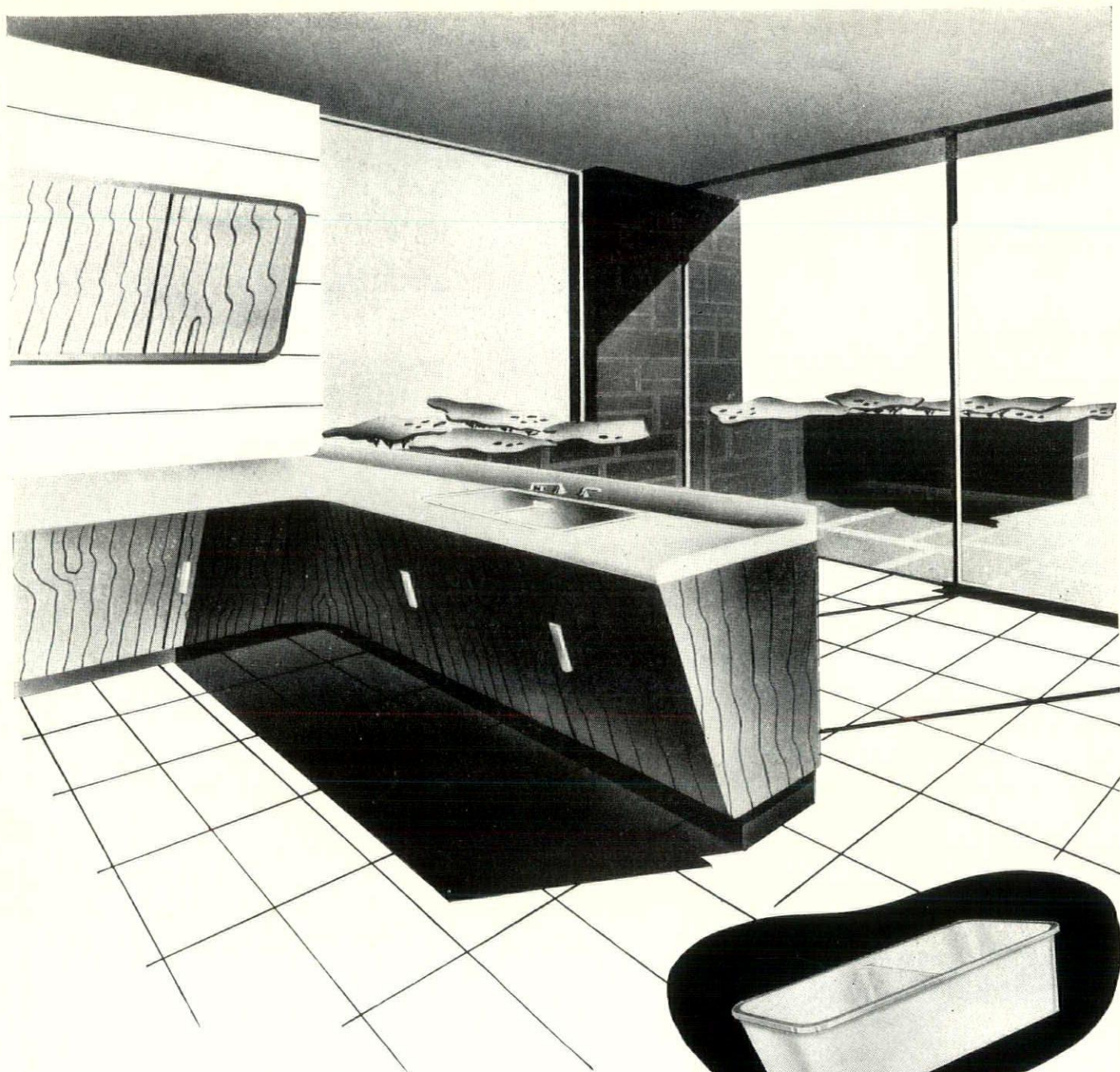
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